

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/851,467

Applicant(s)

FUNG ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Ryan F. Pitaro

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to request for continued examination filed 6 March 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,5,11-22,24-26,28,31-38.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/6/2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Kristine Kincaid
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ted Naccarella on 10/27/2005.

An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A graphical user interface tool for use in connection with a computer program which can simultaneously display multiple files on a computer display device, each file appearing in a different panel on said display device, said tool comprising: means for allowing a user to invoke said tool in association with a selected one of said multiple files using a computer interface device; means for causing a graphic representation of said tool to appear on said display device responsive to being invoked by said user, said graphic representation comprising an icon having a plurality of portions, each corresponding to an operation that can be performed in connection with said selected file; means for allowing said user to select one of said plurality of operations using a user interface device; wherein said means for allowing said

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user to select one of said operations is responsive to said user positioning said cursor in a position indicative of a particular segment of said ~~graphic representation~~ icon to tentatively select said operation corresponding to said segment and performing a subsequent act to select said operation corresponding to said segment; means for causing a line to appear on said display device, when ~~graphic representation~~ icon appears on said display device, said line having a first end point centered on said ~~graphic representation~~ icon and a second endpoint at said cursor; and means for causing said operation to be performed on said selected file.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 3 1 wherein said icon is circular and said segments comprise arc portions of said circular icon.

5. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 3 1 further comprising: means for causing said ~~graphical representation~~ icon to appear in said panel associated with said selected file.

14. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 3 1 wherein said icon further comprises a portion that indicates which of said plurality of panels is said associated panel.

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18. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 4 wherein said ~~graphical representation~~ icon of said tool further comprises a separate horizontal toolbar that duplicates the functionality of said icon.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing with a computer program that can simultaneously display multiple files on a computer display device, each file appearing in a different panel on said display device, said method comprising the steps of: allowing a user to invoke said tool in association with a selected one of said multiple files using a computer interface device; causing a graphic representation of said tool to appear on said display device responsive to being invoked by said user, said graphic representation comprising an icon having a plurality of portions, each corresponding to an operation that can be performed in connection with said selected file; allowing said user to select one of said plurality of operations using a user interface device; wherein said steps for allowing said user to select one of said operations is responsive to said user positioning said: cursor in a position indicative of a particular segment of said ~~graphic representation~~ icon to tentatively select said operation corresponding to said segment and performing a subsequent act to select said operation corresponding to said segment; causing a line to appear on said display device, when ~~graphic representation~~ icon appears on said display device, said line having a first end point centered on said ~~graphic representation~~ icon and a second endpoint at said cursor; and causing said operation to be performed on said selected file.

23. (Cancelled)

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24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 21 wherein said icon is circular and said segments comprise arc portions of said circular icon.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 21 further comprising:
means for causing said ~~graphical representation~~ icon to appear in said panel associated with said selected file.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 21 wherein said step of allowing a user to invoke said tool in association with said selected file associates said tool with said file displayed in said panel within which said cursor was positioned when said tool was invoked and wherein said method further comprises the step of: allowing said user to move said ~~graphical representation~~ icon outside of said panel associated with said selected file without switching said selected file.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 21 wherein said icon further comprises a portion that indicates which of said plurality of panels is associated with said selected file.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein said ~~graphical representation~~ icon of said tool further comprises a separate horizontal toolbar that duplicates the functionality of said icon.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to a GUI tool with varied command segments for use in conjunction with multiple display files wherein the GUI tool is connected to the endpoint of a cursor by a line for accurate selection of the command interest. The closest prior art, Buxton, teaches a method of interfacing with a computer program via a GUI tool with varied command segments for use in conjunction with multiple displayed files but fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan F. Pitaro whose telephone number is 571-272-4071. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am - 4:30pm Mondays through Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 571-272-4063. The

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fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ryan Pitaro
Patent Examiner
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RFP